

## **Biosolids Funding Work Group August 9, 2012 Meeting Summary**

### **Participants:**

Richard Beardslee, Battle Creek WWTP  
Jeanette Best, City of Saginaw WWTP (conference call)  
Rodney Clifton, Battle Creek WWTP  
Ric Falardeau, DEQ  
Joe Goergen, Genesee County WWS (conference call)  
Phil Hoyt, BioTech Agronomics  
Kurian Joycan, Ypsilanti Community Utility Authority  
Richard Kane, Delta Township WWTP  
Steve Mahoney, MDARD  
Sandra Diorka, Delhi Township  
Pete Ostlund, DEQ  
Mike Person, DEQ  
Liane Shekter Smith, DEQ  
Steve Sliver, DEQ  
Kathy Tetzlaff, DEQ  
Mike Wetzel, Kalamazoo Wastewater Treatment Plant

### **Meeting Materials:**

- July 26, 2012 Draft Meeting Summary
- MDARD Biosolids Program Summary
- Annual Fee Calculation Based on CPI
- Biosolids Fee Calculation Sheet (4.5 FTEs)
- Biosolids Fee Calculation Sheet (5 FTEs)
- Biosolids Fee Calculation for FY11
- Biosolids Fee Calculation for FY12
- Biosolids Program Summary (4.5 FTEs)
- Biosolids Program Summary (5 FTEs)
- Reduced FTE biosolids Program
- Biosolids Inspection Reduction Table /Chart

### **Meeting Summary Notes:**

- Each participant introduced themselves.
- Comments were solicited on the July 26 draft-meeting summary. There were no comments so the draft meeting notes will be finalized.
- A reminder to the work group was given that the Web page is active and the DEQ is posting meeting materials on the Web as they become available.

- There was a discussion on the proposed transfer of the MDEQ biosolids program from the Resource Management Division (RMD) to the Water Resources Division (WRD) under consideration by the Director. No final decision has been made yet on the proposal. The effective date would be 10/1/12. Some concern was expressed regarding potential impacts to the workgroup. A WRD representative was present at the meeting to ensure a smooth transition should the transfer occur.
- The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development presented a summary of their activities in the biosolids program.
- Several Biosolids Program Summary tables were presented. A table demonstrating the annual calculated Biosolids fund based on the consumer price index from FY 04 through an estimated amount to be collected for FY 13 was presented. Separate biosolids program summary tables demonstrating the actual and anticipated amounts for total program revenues and expenditures from FY 10 through FY 14 were reviewed. Tables were presented assuming either 4.5 FTEs in FYs 13 / 14 or 5 FTEs in FYs 13 / 14. Anticipated expenditures exceeded anticipated revenues in both FY 13 and FY14 with 5 FTEs.
- A DEQ Biosolids staffing and workload analysis was presented which discussed the potential impacts to the program with a reduced FTE Biosolids program presence. Most likely a reduced program would emphasize using existing field staff to cover a larger geographic area to every extent possible. The department would try to maintain around  $\frac{3}{4}$  FTE for administration and approximately a  $\frac{1}{2}$  FTE coordinator  $\frac{1}{2}$  FTE field position. Approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  FTE would likely cover the UP and the remaining FTEs would cover the 7 remaining districts
- Biosolids program priorities with a reduced FTE field presence, would be to first maintain the EPA program delegation commitments and then to minimize impacts in other target areas. EPA commitments involve certain data collection responsibilities and a commitment to conduct a comprehensive inspection (audit) every 5 years at each active land applying facility.
- The potential impact of a reduced program would likely see a significant reduction in number of yearly facility inspections and slight reductions in site inspections, complaint response, and educational efforts. The potential impacts of conducting less facility inspections were discussed such as more frequent administrative compliance issues and less one on one contact with district biosolids field staff.
- A table and a chart were presented that demonstrated the number of total biosolids inspections conducted from FY 07 to FY 11 and the anticipated impact for FY 13 based on the average from the previous 5 fiscal years. The 2013 estimates assume maintaining 100% Biosolids Audits (EPA Commitment) and a 75% reduction in the number of facility inspections and a 20% reduction in site inspections.

- There was an open discussion on the funding formula for the program and the perceived flaws of the statutory language that creates issues with providing a sustainable funding source year after year.
- Some representatives advocated initiating a legislative fix to the funding formula. Other representatives were not in favor of a legislative fix at this time.
- Since there was not overwhelming support for legislatively fixing the funding formula at this time, the department will proceed with reducing FTEs in biosolids program to best match the anticipated CPI adjusted biosolids fund amount for FY 13 and 14.
- The decision was made to no longer host the biosolids funding workgroup until such time as there is more interest from the regulated community to initiate a legislative fix to the biosolids funding formula.

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